

Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 000600-016

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

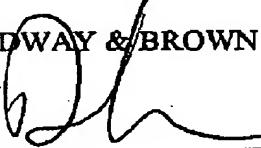
New claim 23 has been added. Claim 23 combines many of the recitations of the previously presented claims and further recites that the metal is passivated. Support for passivation is provided in the specification at least at page 3, lines 16-21. None of the prior art references cited by the examiner teaches or suggests passivation of cleaned metal.

Applicants therefore request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued as to claims 1-6 and 8-23.

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Date: October 18, 2006

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